

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

April 29, 2021

The Honorable Deanne Criswell
Administrator
Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)
500 C Street SW
Washington, D.C. 20024

Dear Administrator Criswell,

On April 7, 2021 we wrote to the Biden Administration in support of Governor Andy Beshear's request for a major disaster declaration for the Commonwealth of Kentucky due to the torrential weather events and subsequent disastrous flooding that occurred in late February through early March 2021. We sincerely appreciated that this request was granted on April 23, 2021, as this will greatly assist Kentucky communities in a desperate time of immense need.


We now write to you to support Governor Beshear's request for the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to conduct damage assessments in the following 26 counties that also reported significant damages to residences: Anderson, Bell, Boyd, Calloway, Clark, Fayette, Franklin, Greenup, Jackson, Jessamine, Knott, Laurel, Lawrence, Leslie, Letcher, Lincoln, Madison, Mercer, Morgan, Owsley, Perry, Pulaski, Rockcastle, Todd, Warren and Woodford. As Governor Beshear noted in his request to FEMA, many households in these counties remain in critical need of individual assistance following the historic flooding that devastated the region. Many families have lost all belongings, furniture, appliances, and transportation, requiring many of them to restart their lives. The damage assessments that Governor Beshear has requested are a critical first step in ensuring these families receive the individual assistance they desperately need.

Again, we thank you for your initial major disaster declaration for parts of our region. We strongly support the Governor's request for damage assessments in these 26 counties and appreciate your urgent consideration.

Sincerely,



HAL ROGERS
Member of Congress



ANDY BARR
Member of Congress



BRETT GUTHRIE
Member of Congress

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

April 7, 2021

The Honorable Joseph R. Biden
President of the United States
1600 Pennsylvania Ave
Washington, D.C. 20500-0001

Dear President Biden,

We write to call your attention to the April 7, 2021 letter from Governor Andy Beshear requesting a major disaster declaration for the Commonwealth of Kentucky due to the torrential weather events and subsequent disastrous flooding that occurred from February 28, 2021 and continuing until March 1, 2021. We strongly support this request and ask for your timely consideration.

Heavy and sustained rain lashed Kentucky communities beginning on Sunday, February 28, 2021, leading to historic flooding, mudslides, sinkholes, road closures, and emergency water rescues. Some pockets of the Commonwealth received up to ten inches of rainfall within a few hours, which caused rivers and streams to surge. Approximately 2,100 homes were destroyed or heavily impacted, while many schools and small businesses endured significant damage as a result of the sustained flooding, displacing numerous families, business owners, and even residents of nursing homes. Many parts of Kentucky were also without clean drinking water for several days and thousands experienced extended power outages. Raised water levels put immense pressure on critical infrastructure, such as dams, temporarily endangering even more residents. As a result of the widespread damage, Governor Beshear declared a State of Emergency on March 1, 2021, in addition to many local declarations. The Kentucky National Guard was activated to provide support, along with at least four helicopters to assist with water rescues.

Previous snow and ice from storms (which you declared as a major disaster on March 31, 2021) occurred just before these flooding events, contributing to the severity of the flooding, as the snow melt saturated the soil. These recent and relentless severe weather events devastated the Commonwealth and its communities. For this reason, we urge you to also approve the requests for both public and individual assistance for those Kentuckians hit hardest by these weather disasters.


We appreciate your urgent consideration of this request, which will greatly assist Kentucky communities in a desperate time of need. Thank you in advance for your quick action in this matter.

Sincerely,


Hal Rogers
MEMBER OF CONGRESS


John Yarmuth
MEMBER OF CONGRESS


Brett Guthrie
MEMBER OF CONGRESS


Thomas Massie
MEMBER OF CONGRESS


Andy Barr
MEMBER OF CONGRESS


James Comer
MEMBER OF CONGRESS


Mitch McConnell
UNITED STATES SENATOR


Rand Paul
UNITED STATES SENATOR

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20510

March 19, 2021

The Honorable Joseph R. Biden
President of the United States
1600 Pennsylvania Ave
Washington, D.C. 20500-0001

Dear President Biden:

We write to draw your attention to the March 19, 2021 letter from Governor Andy Beshear requesting a major disaster declaration for the Commonwealth of Kentucky due to the severe weather events beginning on February 8, 2021 and continuing until February 19, 2021. We strongly support this request and ask for your prompt consideration.

This severe storm system included prolonged periods of significant ice storms, snow, sleet, and freezing rain. During this time, every single Kentucky county was under a winter storm watch or warning. The arctic temperatures combined with the damaging ice and snow caused dangerous road conditions, significant vegetative debris, power outages for more than 152,000 people, and interruption of water systems resulted in severe impacts to transportation, infrastructure, and property. On February 11, 2021, Governor Beshear issued a State of Emergency for the Commonwealth of Kentucky, but additional assistance is necessary at this time.

Unfortunately, six deaths have been confirmed due to the weather and road conditions across the Commonwealth. The citizens of Kentucky need federal resources to respond to these damaging events. For this reason, we urge you to also approve requests for assistance for those Kentuckians hit hardest by these weather disasters. Access to this critical federal assistance will help expedite the disaster relief efforts occurring across the Commonwealth. A delayed federal response will be detrimental to our small rural communities, as well as the health and well-being of residents who have been displaced and impacted by prolonged water outages.

We greatly appreciate your prompt consideration of this request, which will aid Kentucky communities in a critical time of need. Thank you in advance for your prompt action in this matter.

Sincerely,


Hal Rogers
MEMBER OF CONGRESS


John Yarmuth
MEMBER OF CONGRESS


Brett Guthrie
MEMBER OF CONGRESS


Thomas Massie
MEMBER OF CONGRESS


Andy Barr
MEMBER OF CONGRESS


James Comer
MEMBER OF CONGRESS


Mitch McConnell
UNITED STATES SENATOR